

Frye Lights

A Neighborhood Newsletter From Councilmember Donna Frye



March 2004

Volume II, Issue 2



**Proudly Serving
the District Six
Communities of:**

Bay Ho

Bay Park

Birdland

Clairemont

De Anza

Kearny Mesa

Linda Vista

Mission Valley

Mission Village

Morena

Serra Mesa

Stonecrest

A Message From the Desk of Councilmember Donna Frye

The financial condition of the San Diego City Employees Retirement System (SDCERS) is a topic of major concern. It is a complex issue, and I could fill the entire newsletter with information about this subject alone. It is important to me, however, that you be kept informed, so I am providing you with a very brief timeline and update on the city's pension fund.

On November 18, 2002, there was a vote on an ordinance before the City Council that would continue a proposal adopted in 1996 to underfund the pension plan. Despite assurances from city staff that all was well, I did not support the continuance of the underfunding plan and voted against it. I also began listening to, and talking with city retirees troubled with the situation which further heightened my concerns.

In early 2003, a report was issued that began to spell out the financial problems facing the pension fund. On April 11, 2003, I sent a memorandum to the City Manager requesting that an independent and comprehensive performance and operational audit of SDCERS be performed. The response to my memo from the

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Frye Recognizes Medal of Honor Recipients

On Monday, February 9, 2004, Councilmember Frye recognized Medal of Honor recipients by proclaiming that day to be "Medal of Honor Recipients Day" in the City of San Diego. These extraordinary individuals attained their title for caring about their Nation and their comrades in arms, to risk and often sacrifice their lives so that others might live. San Diego's own John W.

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Councilmember Frye proclaimed February 9, 2004 Medal of Honor Recipients Day in the City of San Diego

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Medal of Honor Recipients Continued

Finn, the oldest Recipient of this honor at 94, was on hand at the City Council meeting to receive the proclamation. Also receiving proclamations were Admiral James B. Stockdale, Colonel Jay Vargas, Colonel Robert J. Modrzejewski, Specialist 5th Class John P. Baca, and Lieutenant John McGinty III who was not able to attend the ceremony.



Councilmember Frye recognizes Medal of Honor Recipients at City Council

The Medal of Honor was first introduced in the early days of the Civil War to acknowledge the valiant efforts of the Union, Army, Navy and Marines. The first award of the Medal of Honor was made March 25, 1863, to Private Jacob Parrott and five others. Since then there have been 3,459.

Over the years the Medal has become a historic symbol of the bravest of the brave, in respect to all those who have earned it. Today, there are 137 living recipients of the Medal of Honor. Councilmember Frye was proud to have the opportunity to thank and recognize these heroic men.

A Message From the Desk of Councilmember Donna Frye Continued

City Manager stated that the regular and on-going auditing of SDCERS and the Retirement Fund was sufficient and that an independent audit was not necessary.

In May 2003, the SDCERS Board President ran a paid ad in the San Diego Union-Tribune essentially stating that all was well with the pension fund.

Nonetheless, I continued to ask for an audit. As a result, a nine member Pension Reform Commission was formed in September 2003 to review SDCERS. The Commission was given a number of objectives which included addressing the underfunding of the plan and a review of the scope and independence of audits currently performed by SDCERS. While I supported the formation of the commission, I still believed that more immediate action was necessary.

On January 27, 2004, the City of San Diego released voluntary disclosure statements about the bond issuances that had been made since 1996. The information in the disclosures, which included inaccurate or omitted information about the state of SDCERS, resulted in having the agencies that provide bond ratings place the City of San Diego on a negative watch and lowered our bond ratings. This could result in higher interest rates on City bond issuances, which may have an impact on the city's ability to issue bonds.

On February 13, 2004, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the U.S. Attorney began an investigation. I found out about the investigation by reading the newspaper.

As we continue to deal with this important issue, please be assured I will continue to keep you informed and will do my best to find a solution to this situation.

In a separate but equally important issue, I want to stress the importance of your participation in the upcoming city budget discussions. Last year, our community played a critical role in stopping basic services from being cut. This year, your participation will be even more critical. As soon as the dates of the budget hearings are made available to us, we will let you know. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns please let us know. Communication is the key; if we don't know what is on your mind, we cannot help. Have a Happy Spring and I look forward to hearing from all of you throughout our upcoming budget deliberations.

Sincerely,



Community Leader Highlight -Grover Diemert-

This month our Community Leader Highlight is Grover Diemert. Grover is an active member of the Linda Vista community. He is the Executive Director of Bayside Community Center. Bayside was established to provide basic classes to immigrant families, hold recreational activities for seniors and youth, and offer trade and vocational training to densely populated immigrant communities and has expanded to include everything from ESL and citizenship classes to senior meal programs and after school activities.



Grover Diemert at the Bayside Community Center

Grover is a current member and past president of the Linda Vista Civic Association, a member of the Linda Vista Planning Group and is active within the Linda Vista Collaborative. Grover, with assistance from Councilmember Frye most recently spearheaded a project to renovate the entrance way to the Bayside Community Center.

Rebuilding Together San Diego

Every April for the past eight years Rebuilding Together San Diego, a non-profit organization, has embarked on a mission to revitalize the homes of low-income homeowners throughout San Diego.

Joined in partnership with corporations, community organizations and hundreds of volunteers, skilled and unskilled, they arm themselves with paint brushes, hammers and shovels to renovate homes of individuals who own their homes, but because of age, physical limitation and low and fixed incomes, are not able to repair their homes themselves.

This year Rebuilding Together has scheduled their event day for April 17th. The Clairemont Friendship Center, 4425 Bannock Avenue, will be the beneficiary of their efforts in the Sixth District. By reaching out to help community facilities, Rebuilding Together San Diego feels it can impact the lives of numerous individuals.

This charity is currently working to expand their program to provide services year round. Their new program will assist those qualifying homeowners who are in need of home modification and emergency home repairs.

If you'd like to submit an application for consideration of their services, volunteer your time or make a tax-deductible donation please contact Pamela Thorsch, Executive Director of Rebuilding Together San Diego at (858) 271-4818.



Undergrounding Utilities



On Thursday, February 12, 2004, Councilmember Frye, at the request of the community, participated in a press conference protesting SBC's lack of commitment to the City's Surcharge Undergrounding projects.

The community sponsored press event was held on the corner of Field Street and Burgener Boulevard in Clairemont. The Burgener Boulevard site is one of five projects throughout San Diego in which SBC refuses to cooperate in the undergrounding of utilities. Without a commitment from SBC, the goal of removing the unsightly overhead lines and power poles will not be achieved.

Chris Rink of the Clairemont Mesa Planning

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Committee and Jack Innis organized a powerful and successful demonstration that helped voice the concerns of many frustrated Clairemont residents. These community leaders presented the current status of five affected projects throughout the city in an effort to bring this critical issue to the forefront and put pressure on SBC to resolve it quickly.

Residents rallied, posted signs in their yards and vowed to contact SBC to voice their position on these projects. The negotiations have taken place in confidential closed-door meetings between SBC and the City Attorney's office. The goal of the event was to bring these issues to light and request that SBC work with the City to resolve these unfinished projects as soon as possible.

Councilmember Frye and Urban Corps Plant Trees in Linda Vista Community Center



Councilmember Frye helps plant trees at the Linda Vista Town Center

Councilmember Donna Frye kicked off a tree planting in Linda Vista on Saturday, February 7, 2004. The planting, in conjunction with Urban Corps of San Diego and the Linda Vista community, provided Linda Vista Town Center with twenty seven Ficus trees at the corner of Comstock Street and Linda Vista Road, which were planted by Urban Corps forestry workers with some assistance by community volunteers.

Frye's commitment to planting trees throughout the district, not only results in the beautification of the community, but also help to abate the

problem of urban heat islands and assist in the prevention of unnecessary runoff. Planting trees along public streets has even been proven to slow the speed of traffic passing through the neighborhood, contributing to the safety of our community.

The tree planting is part of the City of San Diego's Community Forest Initiative. The goal of the program is to create a living community forest throughout San Diego. The program calls for 5,000 trees to be planted each year for 20 years throughout San Diego, resulting in the planting of 100,000 trees.

Councilmember Frye has been a vocal advocate of beautifying our neighborhoods by creating an urban forest. She has been active in the effort to plant trees in District Six by targeting Ashford Street and Lindbergh Park in Clairemont, Mission Village Drive in Serra Mesa and Morena Boulevard in the Linda Vista/ Clairemont area for sizeable plantings.

Urban Corps of San Diego is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide job training and educational opportunities to young adults, in the fields of conservation, recycling and community service which will assist youth in becoming more employable, while protecting San Diego's natural resources and installing the importance of community involvement.



Councilmember Frye and Urban Corps participants plant trees at the Linda Vista Community Center



50th Anniversary of Clairemont Women's Club

On Wednesday, January 7th, Councilmember Frye joined the Clairemont Woman's Club in celebrating 50 years of outstanding commitment and service in Clairemont. The Woman's Club was founded in 1954 and soon after joined the California Federation of Women's Clubs and the national General Federation of Women's Clubs, the largest volunteer organization for women in the world.

The Clairemont Woman's Club promotes social concerns, civic interests and education. In addition, they participate in a range of activities in the areas of health, safety, crime prevention, beautification and recreation reaching out to many residents of the Clairemont community.

Congratulations, Women of Clairemont!

Kearny Mesa's New Community Sign



New Kearny Mesa community identification sign on Clairemont Mesa Boulevard

Mesa in February. The new sign is located on Clairemont Mesa Boulevard at Shawline Street.

This is one of the projects that the Kearny Mesa community funded through the Kearny Mesa Enhancement fund created by the developer of the old General Dynamics site for community enhancement.

The Kearny Mesa Community Planning Group unveiled the first community identification sign for Kearny

North Clairemont Library Gets a New Look

On Monday, February 2nd, Councilmember Frye joined Clairemont residents in kicking off the North Clairemont Library beautification project.



The newly painted North Clairemont Library

The project was envisioned by a Clairemont artist, Carol Cottone-Kolthoff, and planned by community volunteer, Dot Jensen. Local business, K-CO Construction contracted Angel Painting, of Clairemont to restore the library while preserving its unique and innovative design. The new modern colors will attract more patrons to the library and revitalize the area. We applaud residents and local business leaders for the much-needed face lift.

Ms. Cottone-Kolthoff was unhappy with the run down appearance of the library building, which she says is a "beautiful piece of architectural sculpture." She came up with the idea of using paint colors to emphasize the 60's-era architectural style of the library. The library was built in the early 1960's and serves the Clairemont community. Thank you to all of the volunteers for helping to preserve an important building in the communities history!



Councilmember Frye and Clairemont community leaders kick off the North Clairemont Library beautification project



Linda Vista Volunteers Recognized



Councilmember Frye thanked Ronald McDonald for coming to the Linda Vista Volunteer Recognition Breakfast

On Saturday, February 21, Councilmember Frye was the Keynote Speaker at the 2004 Volunteer Recognition Breakfast presented by the Linda Vista Collaborative.

This volunteer recognition event is held every year to applaud the amazing contributions that committed volunteers make within the Linda Vista community. McDonald's of Linda Vista not only provided the breakfast for the event but also provided the entertainment. Ronald McDonald took pictures with community children and even the Councilmember!

Congratulations to all of the recipients who received awards at the Linda Vista Volunteer Recognition Breakfast and thank you to McDonald's of Linda Vista!



Councilmember Frye and Congresswoman Davis recognize outstanding volunteers in Linda Vista

Serra Mesa Residents Receive Free Trees



Frye received a plaque of appreciation for funding tree plantings in District Six

On Saturday, February 29, 2004, Councilmember Frye planted the first of thirty seven trees planted in the City right-of-way by

People for Trees and community volunteers. People for Trees "Free Street Tree Program" allowed these residents in the Serra Mesa Community to receive these trees free of cost, all the residents have to do is commit to watering them until they are established.

You may be eligible to participate in this program and receive a free tree. If you are interested in receiving a tree for the right-of-way in front of your house you can contact the District Six office at (619) 236-6616 or People for Trees directly at (619) 222-8733.

People for Trees is a non-profit organization that receives funding from Council District Six for community tree plantings.



Councilmember Frye, People for Trees and youth volunteers plant the first tree



Important Phone Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles	858 495-7856
Animal Regulation	236-4250
Beach & Bay Advisory	338-2073
Birth and Death Records	237-0502
Brush Abatement	533-4444
Building Permits	446-5000
Buses/MTS Access	233-3004
Canyon Watchers Program	858 292-6484
City Council Docket Info	533-4000
City Directory	236-5555
Community Service Center	858 581-4111
Code Violations	236-5500
Curb Maintenance	527-7500
Dead Animal Removal	858 694-7000
Dog Licenses	767-2675
Fire Stations	533-4300
Graffiti	525-8522
Hazardous Materials Hotline	858 694-7000
Housing Commission	231-9400
Humane Society	299-7012
Libraries	
Balboa	858 573-1390
Claremont	858 581-9935
Linda Vista	858 573-1399
Mission Valley	858 573-5007
North Claremont	858 581-9931
Serra Mesa	858 573-1396
Litter Control	858 492-5010
Noise Regulation	236-5500
Office of Small Business	685-1390
Park and Recreation	525-8219
Parking Citations	236-7145
Police: Non-Emergency	531-2000
Pot Hole Hotline	527-7500
Rec Centers	
Kearny Mesa	858 573-1387
Linda Vista	858 573-1392
North Claremont	858 581-9926
Serra Mesa	858 573-1408
South Claremont	858 581-9924
Tecolote	858 581-9930
Recycling Hotline	858 694-7000
Senior Citizens Services	236-6905
Sewer Repair/Spills	515-3525
Sidewalk Maintenance	527-7500
Stormwater Pollution Hotline	235-1000
Street Lights	527-7500
Street Sweeping	527-7500
Traffic Control	533-3126
Tree Maintenance	527-7500
Water Emergency	515-3525
Water Utilities	515-3500
Zoning Regulation Info	236-5555

District Six Community Meetings

Claremont Town Council
Place: Claremont High School Cafeteria,
4150 Ute Drive
When: 1st Thursday/ Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Claremont Mesa Planning Committee
Place: Claremont Friendship Senior Center,
4425 Bannock Ave.
When: 3rd Tuesday/ Month
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Kearny Mesa Planning Group
Place: National University,
9388 Light Wave # 114
When: 3rd Wednesday/ Month
Time: 12:00 p.m.

Linda Vista Civic Association
Place: Linda Vista Recreation Center,
7064 Levant Street
When: 3rd Thursday/ Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Linda Vista Planning Group
Place: Linda Vista Library,
2160 Ulric Street
When: 4th Monday/ Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Mission Bay Park Committee
Place: Rotating Venue
When: 1st Tuesday/Month
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Mission Valley Community Council
Place: Mission Valley Library,
2123 Fenton Parkway
When: 3rd Thursday/ Odd Months
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Mission Valley Unified Planning Committee
Place: Mission Valley Library,
2123 Fenton Parkway
When: 1st Wednesday/ Month
Time: 12:00 p.m.

Serra Mesa Community Council
Place: ARC, 9575 Aero Drive
When: 4th Wednesday/ Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Serra Mesa Planning Group
Place: Taft Junior High School,
9191 Gramercy Dr.
When: 3rd Thursday/ Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.



Councilmember Donna Frye
City Administration Building
202 C Street, MS 10A
San Diego, CA 92101

Frye Lights: A Neighborhood Newsletter From Councilmember Donna Frye



The District Six Staff:

*Michael Simonsen
Chief of Staff*

*Nicole Capretz
Senior Policy Advisor*

*Lisa Gonzalez, Senior Policy Analyst
Mission Valley, Kearny Mesa*

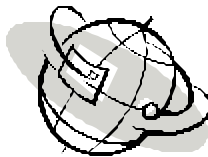
*Meredith McFadden, Council Representative
Serra Mesa, De Anza*

*Kevin Smith, Council Representative
Linda Vista*

*Keith Corry, Council Representative
Clairemont*

*Mary Ann Kempczenski
Council Representative*

*Lee Chiles Mayes
Scheduler/ Office Manager*



Contact Councilmember Donna Frye

Phone: (619) 236-6616

Facsimile: (619) 236-7329

Address:

202 "C" Street, M.S. 10A

San Diego, CA 92101

E-Mail: DonnaFrye@sandiego.gov

Web Site: www.sandiego.gov/cd6